

Knowing of your interest in immigration issues, I wanted you to know that I recently became an original cosponsor of [H.R. 997](#) , legislation to make English the official language of the United States. By taking this action, federal officials would be obligated to preserve the role of English in our nation, and individuals from all nationalities would be encouraged and expected to learn this essential language.

The English language has been a uniting cultural force in this great nation and has enabled generations of Americans to realize the dream of American opportunity and freedom. Studies continue to prove that the knowledge of English empowers newcomers, helping them become part of the mainstream in our society. Regardless of race, gender or citizenship status, polls have consistently indicated that the vast majority Americans support making English our official language.

I have been an active supporter of English-first legislation throughout my tenure in the House of Representatives. In past sessions of Congress, the House has passed legislation to declare English as the official language of the United States. Regrettably, these measures were not signed into law. I will continue to urge House passage of H.R. 997 this year, and hope that the Senate and President Obama will support it.